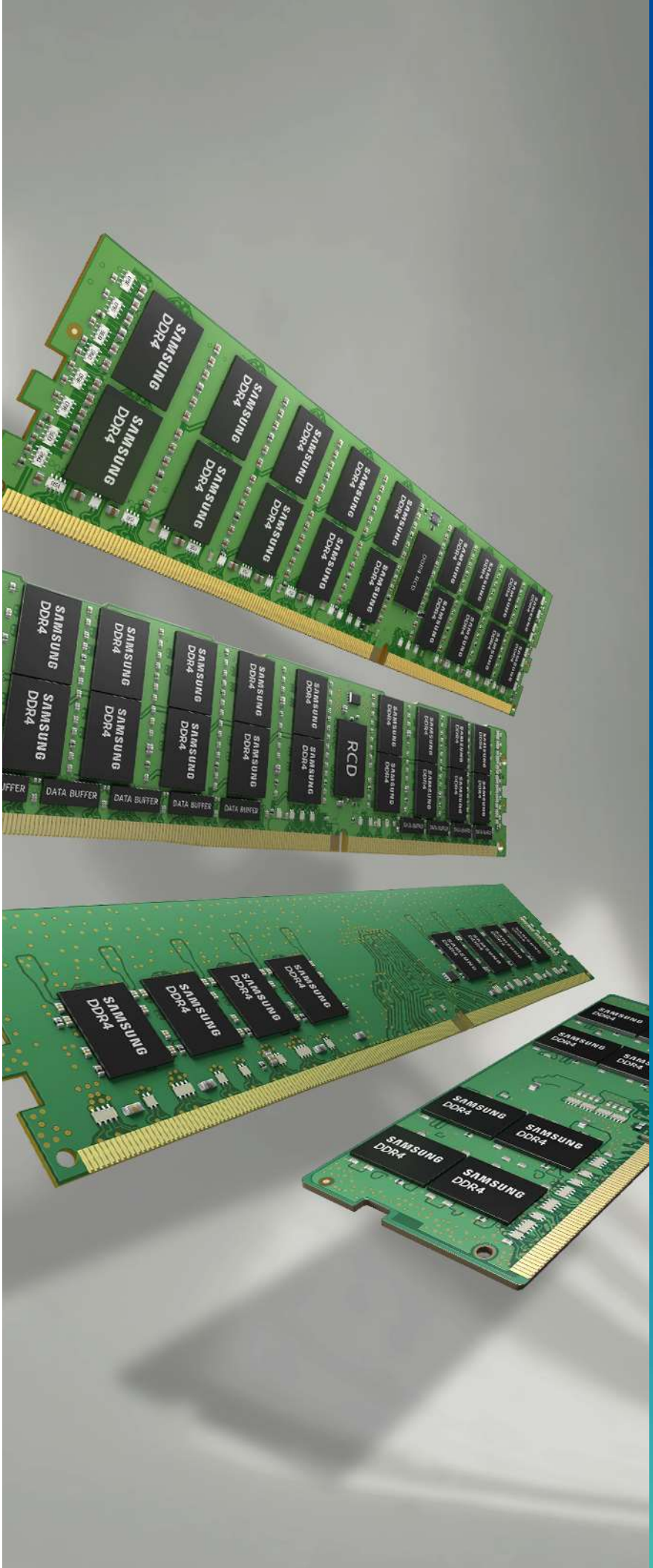

Module Handling Guide

How to handle the module

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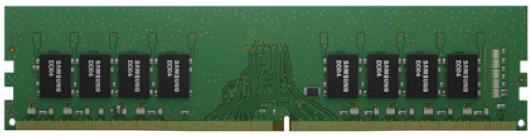
Overview

Recently module failure related with Active/Passive/Component crack has increased.
Main root causes are wrong handling method and mechanical damage.
Current products have more cap. & resistors and the sizes of those passives are reduced and most of them are located around edge area.
These characteristics require more cautious module handling method.

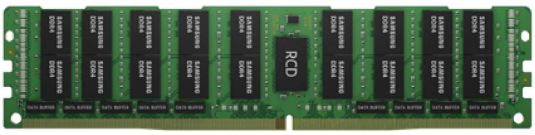
This guide book tries to find out tendency and range of module crack pattern based on experiments from several aspects. The main purpose is to reinforce Samsung's process control and help customer effectively control module handling process.

Test methods are PCB Bow, Twist, Drop Test, UTM(Universal Testing Machine) Test for DRAM, Resister & Capacitor. We observed crack phenomena and tendency through the datum and pictures. Tested products are limited to Registered DIMM [RDIMM], Unbuffered DIMM [UDIMM] and BOC PKG based Module, therefore test results might be different when applied to other products.

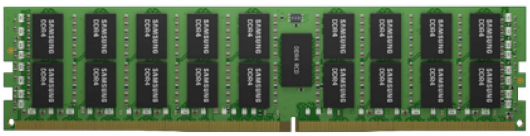
Memory Module Introduction



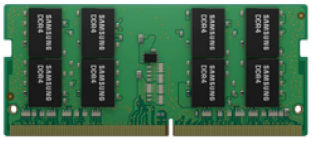
Unbuffered DIMM



Load Reduced DIMM



Registered DIMM



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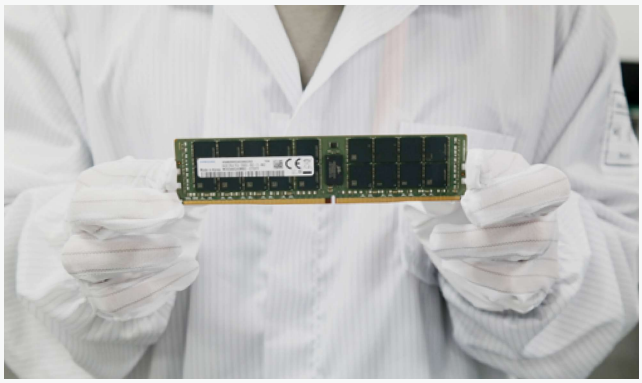
Proper Handling

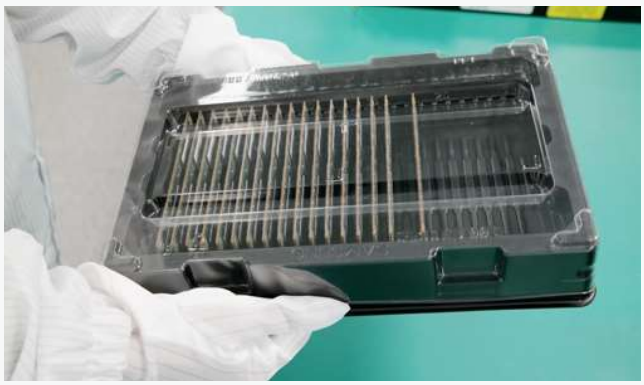
- Anti-ESD* straps should be used.
- The strap should be linked to your body.

*ESD : Electro Static Discharge

- Modules should be picked up from packing trays only one-by-one.
- Product should be handled at the conductive mat.



- Do not grab packages. Hold only the edge of the PCB with both hands.
- Wear gloves when handling.



- Tray must be covered when handling module tray.

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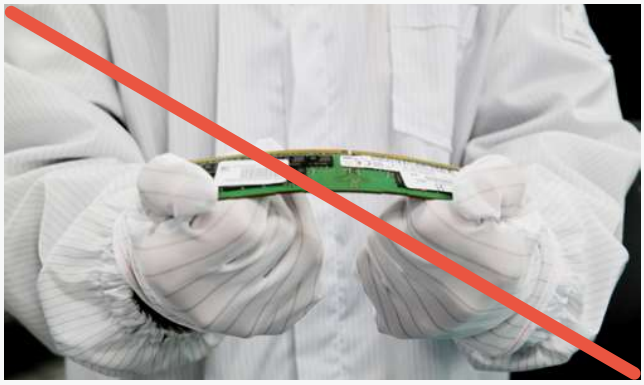
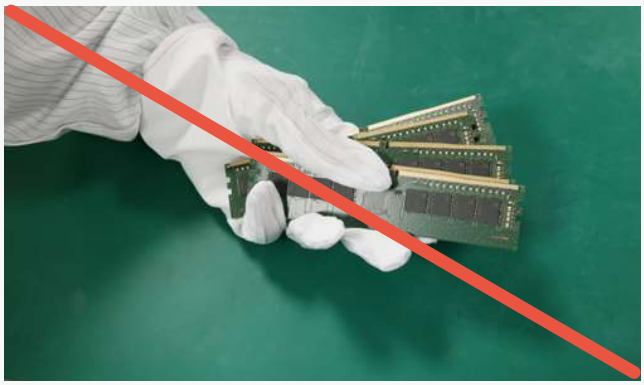
Wrong Handling

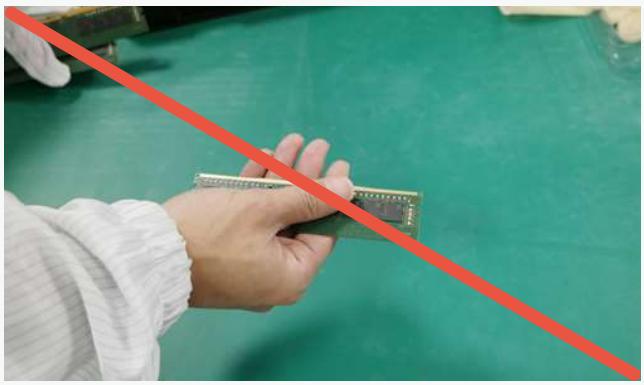


- Do not twist or bow a module.

- Do not drop modules on the floor.



- Do not grip several modules using one hand.



- Do not touch module without gloves.
  It can cause tab contamination.

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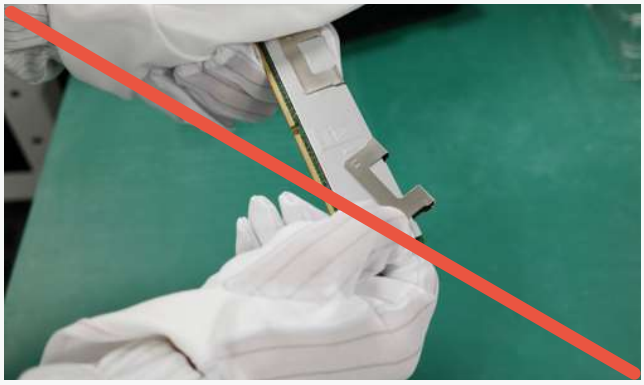
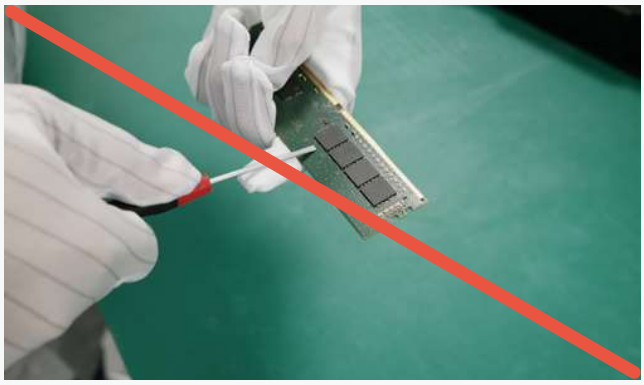
Wrong Handling



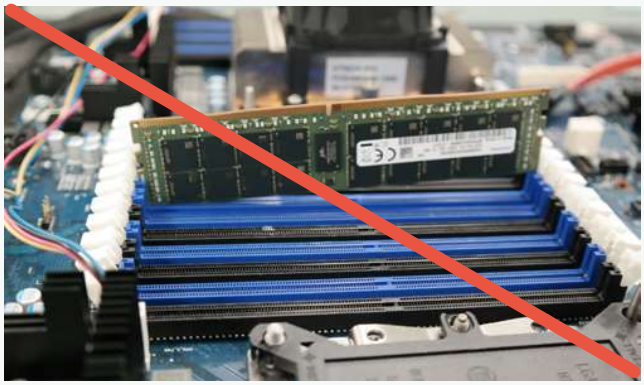
- Do not detach H/S* or clip. (FDHS product)

  *H/S : Heat Spreader



- Handling modules near tools is prohibited because hard metal objects can damage Module.

- Do not insert the module by seating one end first then seating the other.
  (This is called zippering or rock)



- Do not insert module upper side.

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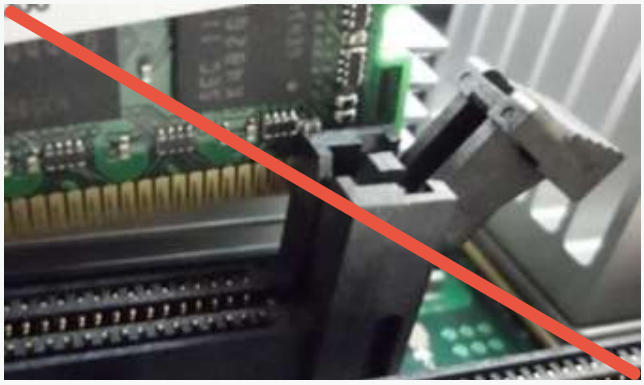
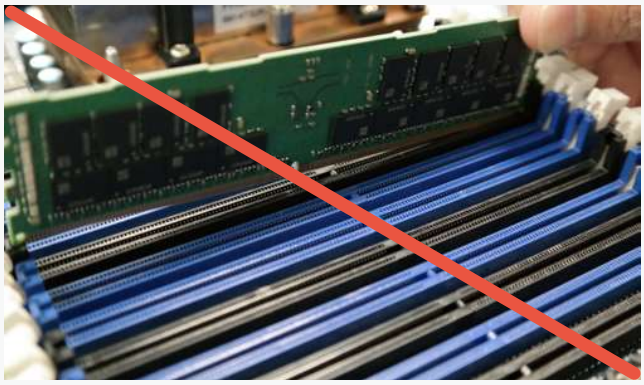
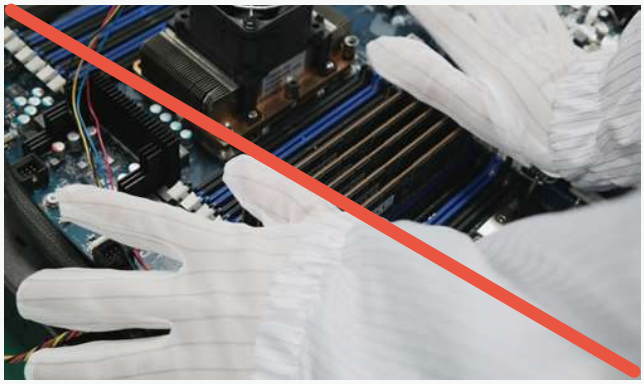
Wrong Handling



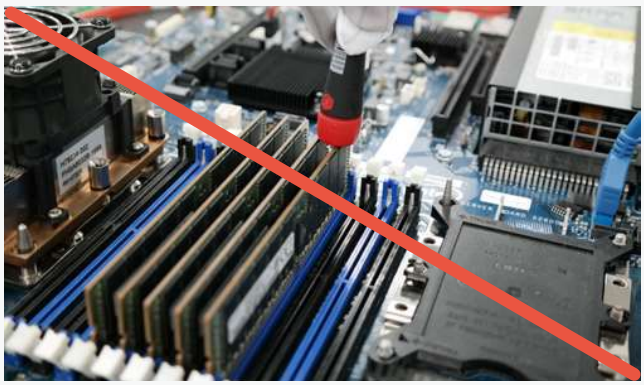
- Do not insert module between sockets.



- Do not insert key notch reverse.



- Do not insert several modules at the same time. (or simultaneously)



- Do not use metal tools when the socketing.

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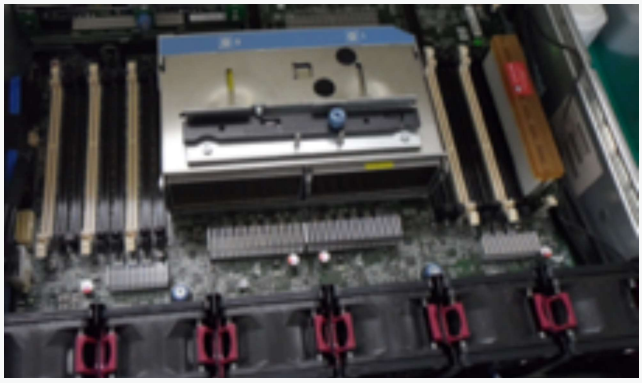
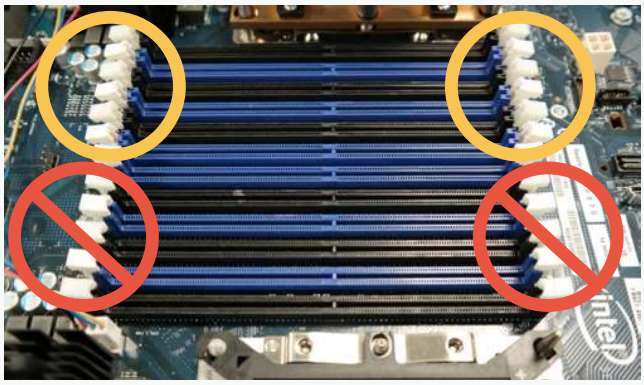
Proper Socketing Process



1. Socketing must be conducted before turn-on.

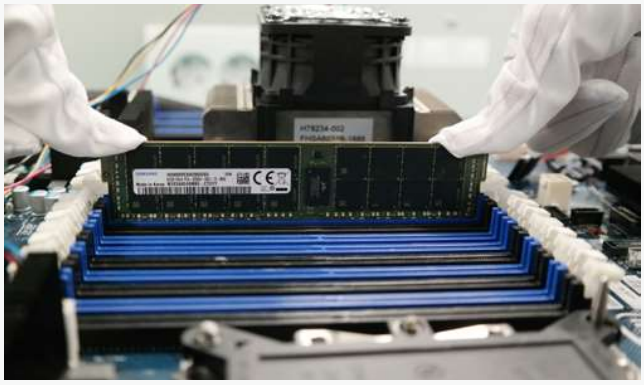


2. Ensure that both latch ejectors of connector are fully opened.

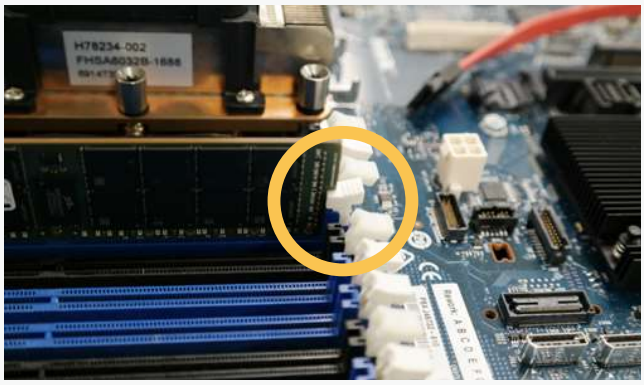
3. Grip the module edge side with both hands. (avoid touching component area)

4. Align module to socket notch & side guide.

Proper Socketing Process



5. Press down both edge side of module at the same time.



6. Confirm latch ejectors closed properly.

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Conclusion

We validated the possibility of cracking tendencies through various tests. Various products, Environments, and characteristics of tools can cause errors and affect test results.
However, the most important conclusion that can be deduced from the tests is that special caution against mechanical damage and handling errors should be taken from the point of unpacking modules to inserting into the sockets on system boards.
Recent memory module products are structurally weak to external damage due to the increasing numbers of ICs and passive components and the unit's diminishing size.
It's difficult to predict and find out clear root causes of failures related with BOC PKG passive components due to many variances and circumstances. However, the above guidelines for memory module handling based on test results should help with crack-related problems and make more effective process control possible.

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